

PUNK FAMILY



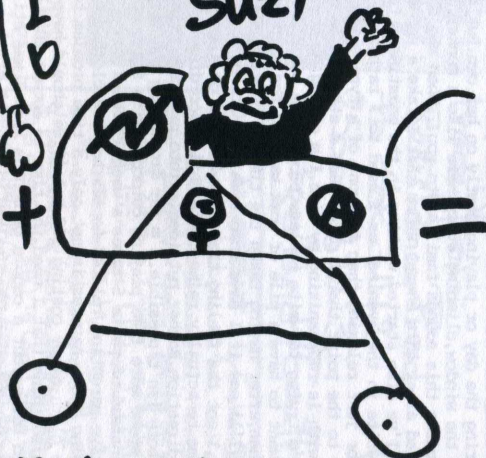
+



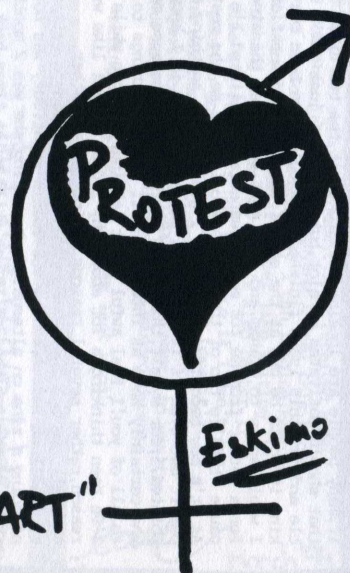
+

MASSIVE LOVE 3

SUZY



=



EXIST ONLY ONE LANGUAGE, LANGUAGE OF HEART"

I feel really bad about this third issue of Massive Love... Many people contributed to it, many people are looking forward to it, the two first issues got a great response, all that should motivate me a lot, but I can't, I just CAN'T seem to write any kind of article and get this issue finished! It should have been out for ages, every day I was thinking it would be out at the end of the week, and worst of all, every day I was thinking I would write to Graham and Juli next week when the zine's out... They're both waiting for a letter from me for months, especially Juli, and I'm really sorry and ashamed because they're two of the people who inspire me the most and I love their letters. As it's now becoming clear that I won't write anything for this issue, I've decided to put it out even if it's only 16 pages and even if I know many people will be disappointed. I, for myself, think it's a great issue because many people contributed to it who certainly have as interesting, if not more, things to say than I would. Hearty thanks to all of you! I feel awful about letting you down while you gave your best! I've been thinking a lot about why I didn't feel like writing anything. There's no main reason, rather several reasons adding to each other.

"Parents are too busy BEING parents as opposed to writing about it!!!" wrote me Graham in his first letter, and he was fuckin' right! Suzy was not born yet when I got the idea of doing a zine on alternative parenting, she was 2 months when I put the 1st issue out and 9 months for the 2nd. It was still quiet times back then, she was still sleeping a lot during the day or playing gently on her own. But she's now 18 months, trying to jump out of the window, climbing everywhere like a monkey, devastating all she finds on her way, I guess this sounds familiar to you... When she's taking a nap I generally feel so exhausted after this energy storm that I take a nap myself to be fit for "the second round". I've also started working in the meantime, 3 to 4 nights a week, which means I can't write in the evening as I used to. I rather spend the remaining evenings with Pablo or just relaxing than in front of a type-writer. I've been lacking some time for myself to the point that I often feel a stranger to myself. The most important thing to start with is reorganizing my time. I'm giving up most of my activities with Resistance Prod, I'm trying to write to less people, I'm not planning any new project anymore, I don't want to have a pile of work waiting for me on my desk anymore, just a few letters, and then, after having taken the time to be with Suzy, to be with Pablo, and to be with myself, I'll see if I have some time left for other activities.

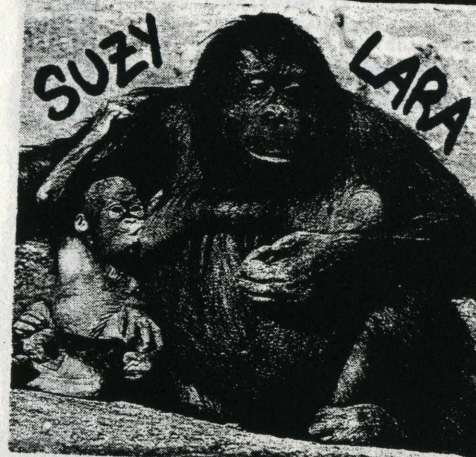
Anyhow, I got the feeling that doing a zine on alternative parenting while not having the time to actually raise one's child according to one's ideals was heading in the wrong direction. Rather put ideals into practice that theoretically write about them if doing both isn't possible. I'm far from being the mother I wish I would be... I wish I would spend more time playing outdoors with Suzy, cooking more varied and tastier vegan food instead of pasta 5 times a week. I wish I could find the time to read books on alternative parenting related topics, to wash cloth-nappies (although the reason why we're not using cloth-nappies is not only a time problem but also a financial problem, one single cloth-nappy costing \$20 here!!!). We should have bought them at the very beginning. I also think that I need the time to accept that I'm now a mother, it's getting better and better, but a couple of months back I was still feeling uncomfortable with Suzy and the way I behaved and talked with her. I still need to work a lot on not unconsciously repeating the traditional way my parents raised me, it really remains deeply given in ourselves!

Another reason why I was escaping the typewriter is that I'm fed up with writing in english. Not being able to express oneself with shades or straight to the point is extremely frustrating at times, it may lead to misunderstandings, and most of the time it's not taken seriously because it sounds so childish. I'm already speaking a foreign language most of the time at home, so I'm more and more feeling the urge to express myself in my mother tongue. But I doubt I would get to know any punk parents if Massive were in french... and interestingly enough, almost all parents I got in touch with through the zine are english speaking people! As we now want to try and move to England, it gives me some new motivation to improve my english, so my "anti-english" feelings are kind of over.

At last but not least, it scares the shit out of me when I know people are expecting something from me. I have the feeling that people have too high expectations from Massive Love while I'm just an inexperienced mother. I'm just trying to raise our child as radically as I can but I have still SO MUCH to learn!!! I've also noticed that I'm the same I was 10 years ago at school: when I know I MUST do something, an unconscious resistance in myself keeps myself from doing it! I spent all my free time reading, writing, learning, but when an obligatory homework was due for a certain day I just kept laying on my bed and did nothing. And somehow it's a bit the way I felt with this third issue, I just realised it a few days ago and realising this made me rethink the whole concept of Massive Love. I wanted many parents to contribute to Massive Love and that a kind of network develops around it, I also wanted to put it out twice a

year. But I'm just not the right person to run such a project... I've received many contributions and people are waiting for the zine to come out, and I feel this bloody pressure upon me that totally paralyses me. So now, the only way I can imagine keeping on doing a zine is not promising I will do one, just see if I feel like writing things and if I don't nobody is expecting anything from me anyway... It's also better if I don't ask anyone to contribute, or else I'd feel it's not very nice if I don't put the zine out. So I'll see, but I'll ever publish another issue of Massive Love it'll be a more personal one. Not "a zine for punk parents by punk parents" anymore, but a zine by myself on my twopenny feelings and experiences. I'm very happy Graham wants to realize his COMMUNICATE! project as I do think such a network between like-minded parents would be a great thing to set up. OK, I hope people will still keep on writing to me, that was not my last word!

love
Horch 94



This zine is available for a trade from:
Resistance Prod
Po box 3142
2500 Biel 3
Switzerland/Earth



RAGGEDY ANARCHY'S GUIDE TO BAKING AND THE UNIVERSE

Over 55 cake, frosting, pie, cookies and breakfast recipes! Enough to produce that eggs and dairies ain't necessary to make the most delicious things. Definitely a must for all sweet lovers. But even if baking ain't my thing, it's one of the best zine I've read recently. There are about as many pages of personal rants than of recipes. I tell you, I couldn't stop reading once I had begun! Some very thought provoking stuff about living one's life, playing "direct action", death!!!, and even a homebirth experience. I loved this zine.
\$3 to Raggedy Anarchy, 4942 Kurz circle, Carmichael, CA 95608, USA.

LE LAIT, UNE SACRÉE VACHERIE ?

Book
What a good surprise it was to discover this book in a french organic shop, in the land of cheese and gastronomy a doctor shows that milk and dairies are not only unnecessary to be healthy but also that they're pretty harmful! He's not a vegan nor an animal rights defender but I liked the way he puts his ideas forward without putting people off and even motivating them to try a milk-free diet for a while. A very interesting read. I learned quite a lot, and it's not a difficult read either, the kind of book you can easily lend to your family. Woops, I forgot, it's by Dr Nicolas Le Breton, 102 F, expensive I reckon, Editions Equiblores.

OUR ALLOTMENT by Graham Burnett - Booklet

Just take a look at Massive Love back cover to see how lovely Graham's drawings are. He made here a picture book for children about growing one's own food on an allotment, which is I guess inspired by his family daily life! I'm sure children would love it, must be great to colour too! What I especially like is that, as Graham says, it promotes a bit of positive imagery of punks, which is much needed if you ask me...
75 p + SAE (A5 size) to Land & Liberty, 126 North Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 7AG, England.

DAS BREIBUCH by Sabine Deutscher - Book

I guess you can find this book in all good german speaking organic shops. Loads of recipes for small children which are in fact all vegan as no eggs are used. I wish Suzy could have parents who cook such great and varied things, but... I must say that this book often gives me a bad conscience. There are also small articles on breastfeeding, sugar substitutes, milk allergy, vitamins and the like.
Pablo bought it for 8,50 € - Rapunzel Vertrieb.

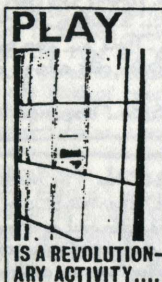
L'ECHAPPÉE DU BOCAL (in french!) Booklet

You can't get more D.I.Y. than this! Each from Noëlla's little booklets is hand-coloured and they're all a little different. Picture and word collages illustrate insurrection to school better than an article could do. A quote to answer to Samy's letter: "To adapt a child to its epoch means adapting it to a market." Just write her if you want to get one of her booklets, I'm sure she will do new issues as she seems to be very creative! This one is dedicated to Nouchkine, her and Etja's daughter who should be 6 months now. Bisous!
Noëlla Martin, Le Magnou, 36230 Ners Sur Indre, France.

BEYOND CRECHES

We feel the creche should be seen as part of conferences, gatherings and not a separate place where children are kept while the adults get on with the 'serious business'. This is always the case, sort of 'what should we do with the kids?', 'oh, stick 'em in a creche'. This is a typical demand of the Left. However, as social revolutionaries we cannot ignore children in such a dismissive way. If we want to change how people live & work together, then this must include the community's kids. There is no long term advantage to eliminating Patriarchy, the powerful, rich & authoritarian systems, if the remaining people only relate to people in terms of power and the future of our communities- kids - are still being stuck in creches. Rather, we would see kids as having a valid contribution to make to all events. We feel creches are only the beginning in how we relate to kids and support adults who are responsible for caring for kids; they are not an end. There is no point in removing the jackboot from women, only to leave it breaking the kids. It is important to work towards breaking down the barriers between kids and adults, where kids are not excluded from events, or continually subjected to adult authority, where kids are consulted and listened to. This means changes in our personal awareness, and changes in the way we run society & our communities; it means patience, allowing children to express themselves, it means allowing ourselves to be challenged by children when we are being authoritarian. Our communities must be open to active participation by all its members, there must be collective responsibility and mutual aid. Certainly, creches can offer good opportunities for kids - inviolate areas, association with peers, chance to organise autonomously etc, but they are also divisive and shut out kids from adults.

If we all shared the responsibility, and could look out for the kids, then there would be no need for creches. We would hope that at least some workshops can be organised to allow this process to begin, and at future events more and more. The creche will be open to all adults & kids to participate, with hopefully, lots of fun! If children prefer to be with adults they know & trust they should be allowed to play/be in meetings and an adult -not necessarily the one responsible for them- should be on hand to give support.



by Graeme

Written by Michael Wood

As punk parents already, or those interested in raising a child in an anarchist mindset and environment, the belief that liberation should belong to our children and their earth is always foremost in our desires and ideals.

Regarding physical pain in application to our young comrades: Pain is a learned behavior and a programmed response more than it is physically experienced. This conditioning begins, perhaps, without the conscious knowledge of the anarchist punk parent, for certain matters have remained instituted. As example, if a child were to fall and an anarchist punk parent were to display a very obvious reaction, then it stands as natural for that comrade to cry in response to that anarchist punk parents REACTION, and NOT intrinsically from any physical pain that child will or will not experience. Thus, upon a child crying, they are held in response by an anarchist punk parent. ALL children find enjoyment in being held, and certainly this is encouraged yet a learned behavior can be instituted, due to an anarchist punk parents reaction to matters, whereby a young comrade cries not in reaction to actual physical pain but in response to a learned conditioning. As time progresses, children are programmed to believe that certain matters cause physical pain. Therefore, children LEARN to experience physical pain in reaction. Not, again, due to any physical pain experienced; rather, in response to societal conditioning MUST inflict pain in certain matters. Therefore, regardless of actual physical experience, persons LEARN to feel physical pain in many matters. From a young age, this is a societal programming that leads to an existence of disempowerment, while benefitting only fascist corps. through the sales of medications tested upon animals. Mainstream medical practice has LONG realized the relevance in conditioning which promotes false experiences of physical pain; it allows these institutions of profit and privilege to remain in power.

As punk parents, we love for our children FAR stronger than societal parents, for we struggle for a betterment, and reclamation, of the earth in which our children are to exist. There are various matters seemingly subtle in appearance, yet undeniably fascist in effect, that stand to be countered and destroyed. So ingrained are various of these matters as to be unconscious, perhaps. A solution to anarchist punk parents may be to wait in having an outward reaction (if possible!) until the young comrade exhibits a reaction in response to physical pain and/or shock. There is NO justification for "militaristic" parenting or denying that a child is quite capable of experiencing physical pain and expressing such through crying. During these times, a child undeniably NEEDS the support, comfort, and love that an anarchist punk parent can offer. To do otherwise is to deprive the comrade a feeling of validity to their pain and to sacrifice their self-esteem.

Regarding DIY anarchist punk music in application to our young comrades: A child's pleasure in hearing DIY anarchist punk (as is the "Punk Is..." compilations!) stands as a NATURAL response and desire. Since conception, humans have derived pleasure and information through sounds, as do the majority of earth's inhabitants. From within the womb, humans have been aware of external sounds, and such sounds are possible to have a comforting effect (such as the voice of the mother - or a Doom LP ahah!). Anarchist punk parents benefit their children through sharing DIY anarchist punk with the young comrade (DIY anarchist punk as pertaining to ALL matters and not, singly, the music alone.). There is undeniably no act of love towards our young comrades more relevant than sharing anarchism-punk, for anarchism-punk embraces that which ALL humans (along with other animal species) desire with no presence or influence of fascist societal oppression: love, peace, equality, respect, and such ideals, upon a liberated earth.

I have pretty much reconciled myself that the majority of my time is spent focusing on the kids. It's frustrating at times being home alone with a young child but once you get used to it and realize it is really a short period overall in your life you can actually appreciate it.

I wanted to say something about an issue you touched in ML 1, namely nursing while lying down. Now, Suzy hasn't been sick and my children have so I may be wrong, but I have always nursed them to sleep while lying down and my friend in La Leche says that since the sucking is so strong while nursing the estachian tube in the ear is closed and it doesn't cause ear infections. When you consider it, even when you are nursing sitting up, the babe is still in a lying down position. I was once worried about tooth decay resulting from nursing them to sleep but the same friend explained that nursing is more active than bottle feeding which causes tooth decay. In other words when you stop nursing the milk flow stops whereas with the bottle it still drips.

Oh, you asked about colostrum since I was still nursing Z, when N was born. I was concerned about that too, but trusted in nature. Luckily, although Z visited me each day (4 days) in the hospital, he never asked to nurse, so N got all the milk for 4 days. My milk came in just like the first time although I was already producing milk, that was interesting. Tandem nursing isn't all that common but I know several people through La Leche that have done it. It is tiring, but a good way to get the kids quiet when you can't stand it anymore. And boy, do I eat a lot!

Homeschooling is becoming more well known here. About 1/2 the people doing it are christian types who disagree with the "secular humanism" that the schools teach. The other 1/2 are people like us who are upset with the whole school system. They are under-funded and in most small to large cities filled with weapon-carrying drugged out kids (middle and high schools that is) which is pretty frightening because that is such a volatile time in your life anyway, you're likely to do anything. We are more concerned with what and how the kids are taught than with the violence issue although it doesn't sound that way. Schools are so competitive and the individual is not considered, all are taught at the same "average" pace and some get left behind while others are bored and way ahead. Also I believe the schools teach racism, classism, etc, directly and indirectly. Our plan is that right now Z is starting a Montessori type pre-school in August when I start at the university and N is staying home with Joe. In 3 years or so when I finish school, I will work and Joe will homeschool the kids. That's the plan for now. We'll see how it works.

One more thing, I was thinking you could combine your interests. For example, in ML you could discuss music for kids, ways children (older ones) can help change the world and build global community or how parents can help instill these values in their kids, and way the government affects our lives as a family, like special laws and stuff. And ways to protest or support those issues that directly affect families. And in the end families affect everything because the children are the future of the earth.

JULI

I am also a vegan punk parent and get lonely at times. I have a 2 1/2 year old who we raised vegan from conception and she is thriving well. Even though there is some support for vegan children in this area it still gets hard. Especially when Sequoia has to play with other kids who aren't hip to the diet and I have to be on my toes with making sure she isn't eating their food. If you plan on doing other copies and need material for it I'd love to write. Let me know. I would like to travel to Europe in 2 years and am trying to make contacts with people before hand so if you folks are there for a while maybe we'll stop by. Keep up the struggle.

PATTY

Megan has had some childhood diseases like chickenpox, measles, etc, but she didn't get them too badly. I don't believe in having her vaccinated as they are all treated and tested on animals and the product contains dead animal cells and glands. Also the measles one is treated with egg and if your child is allergic to eggs she can have a really bad reaction so if your child has never eaten egg you don't know if she will get really sick after being done. I mostly let the illness take its course but do give my family homeopathic medicines from Britain which are vegan as all the pills contain lactose from milk which is very stupid. If you want the address I will send it to you next time. They send by mail in Britain but I don't know how overseas, I expect they will. They are really good and have hundreds of remedies. I have found a good book in french on herbs its called "Secrets et Vertus des Plantes Medicinales" by Readers Digest pub in Suisse, Râffelstr. 11, Gallushof, 8021, Zürich. This is the best herb book I've seen for ages. It's really good with lots of info and things in it. I grow about 80 different varieties of herbs in my garden, about half of them can be used for people. I have found a really good seed supplier in Canada which has loads of chinese herbs in and medicinal ones as well. It's called Ritters seeds and the address if you have a garden to grow some in is Richters, Goodwood, Ontario, Canada LOC 1A0. Love and Peace.

KAREN

I think I have the solution to the "navel string" problem, I hope you still remember it? What was written in Papermouth is correct, animals do wait for the navel-string to stop pulsing and then they tear it apart, read it carefully! They wait until it stops pulsing. You've to understand that a living being when born still breathes through the navel-string and slowly adapts to breathing through its own lungs. In "our" case (i.e. humans), the navel-string is cut before it stops pulsing which forces a baby to start breathing on his own, and thus creates a shock, without having the time to start breathing through lungs according to its own abilities. I hope this is the right answer to this discussion... It is quite obvious that animals don't trail their babies around, haha!

The editor of Papermouth

I've changed a lot since Julian was born. I didn't intend to send him to school and went to a couple of libertarian education conferences when he was young. But he's 5 1/2 now and has been at school a year. If he didn't want to go I don't know if I'd have the confidence to keep him out of school. But... he loves it. I guess that's mainly because he's an only child and we live in a small village so he doesn't have any playmates. The school is tiny, 60 kids aged 4 1/2-11 years. But the main thing is... he is happy. He isn't all vegan now either, his dad and I split up, and his dad eats some dairy, so Julian wants to as well. But I reckon, even if he wants to eat meat, I'll explain why I don't, and he's welcome to eat, but I'll never cook it for him or buy it. Somehow I don't think he will as we live in the country and constantly see the cycle of lambs in spring fattened up for the market in autumn. I'm curious to see how he'll be as he grows up.

JEN

The hospital wouldn't sterilise me after my second son was born as I was too young at 19 and they thought I would want to change my mind as my after a few years. I didn't change my mind as my daughter was not planned but I got them to sterilise me after she was born, it was done free when she was 5 months old, I had to wait so long as there were so many other women waiting to be done as well. I have never regretted it in twelve years even though I am now with another partner who doesn't have kids, he is not bothered or so he says about having kids as he likes to look forward to us having a life without kids once Megan is an adult and living away from us. My sons father was sterilised when I was 19 but of course I had a different father for Megan so maybe it was fate that I had her I think so. I only stayed one night in hospital when I was sterilised but I had to have food brought in for me as they couldn't give me anything at all I thought suitable to eat - vegan and wholefood.

Is there anyone who subscribes to your zine who has older kids other than me, my kids are 18, 16 & 12. I like your zine but would like to hear about how other parents are bringing up their older kids and how they manage to keep them vegan when all the kids friends eat meat and did they eat any, etc?

KAREN

My experiences as a mother have been disrupted by bouts of mental illness. It is easy to say that mental illness doesn't really exist but is instead a controlling mechanism of the state but I am a manic-depressive and this is a real condition for me. I have a 3 1/2 year old child called Tod and he is beautiful. I enjoyed being pregnant, feeling Tod grow inside me and having a real reason to look after myself well, eat properly, etc (I had previously been caught in the classic trap for women of eating disorders). One week before Tod was born I was taken into hospital with high blood pressure. I found this time in hospital restrictive and distressful. I was addressed as a married woman, visitors were limited and my physical movements were restricted. When I started labour I was strapped to a machine to monitor the baby. I took myself off this machine and locked myself in the toilet to cries from the nurses of "come out Mrs Terry come out". For me it felt natural to move about in labour rather than stay in one place. When I got to the delivery suite things were a lot different. I had requested that I have the most natural birth possible but the pain was so great I was rolling on the bed shouting "give me an epidural, give me an epidural!" I didn't have an epidural but I did use gas and air. I gave birth just over 2 hours later. Drinking raspberry leaf tea from 6 months pregnant helps to ease birth. I felt so elated after birth but unfortunately for me this elation turned to mania and four days later I was in a mental hospital separated from my son. I saw Tod everyday but I was unable to breast-feed because my breast milk was contaminated with the drugs I was taking. I was again ill when Tod was 2 yrs old and I now live separately from my son and his dad. This is alternative parenting in the sense that we haven't adopted the traditional roles set out by society. Kelvin, Tod's dad, being the main carer has had to cope with being the only male when dealing with nurseries etc. and he feels that he lacks the support that a single mother would naturally have from friends etc.

SARAH

It's always good to hear from people in other countries/other anywhere who have different ideas about bringing kids into the world. Don't know about you, but the most negative response is WHY? Why bring children into this big, bad world? Pretty pathetic. Children, quite simply, are the only hope for a decent world, and Steph my "partner" and I are not going to deny ourselves the joy of being parents just because of the last 10 000 years of human fuck-ups!! I'm an anarchist and certainly wouldn't describe myself as a punk. I'm not a vegan though we all are vegetarians. As for our daughter, Catya, well she's 19 months old. She's beautiful (of course!) and we just hope that we can help her all we can, and most certainly will bring her into contact with as many ideas as possible which do not conform to the system's view of normality and braindeath!! PS: I'm involved in the Anarchist Black Cross (prisoners support group) and wondered if anyone there was involved in this kind of work or interested? Maybe we could exchange info or whatever.

CHRIS

I have two children, Celka is 7 and Merle is nearly 2. I went vegan just before I got pregnant with Celka, and she's vegan too, though sometimes eats cakes at parties because she doesn't like to feel left out. I don't like the idea, but feel it is more important for her to be happy and comfortable in the company of her friends. She believes in the vegan ethic anyway. I had Celka in hospital (unfortunately) and breastfed her. She started solids at 5 1/2 months and weaned herself from the breast at 22 months. Merle was born at home (which was a fantastic experience), and also breastfed, though he started solids at 16 weeks (he was begging for food with his eyes, and reaching out for it). He weaned himself from the breast at 14 months. He is still exclusively vegan, and I hope to keep him that way for as long as possible, probably until he starts school, like Celka, and fitting in becomes important.

Celka goes to an ordinary state school, though we're fortunate in that it's a good school, and every multi-racial as well as having a good mix of classes. The school she first went to was very middle class and white. Although both my children are white, I feel it is just as important for them to be in environments where racism is tackled and positive images of all races are provided, as it is for black children. Merle goes to the crèche at the college where I study. It's a nice place, and the whole college operates on equal opportunities policy. I don't like the way schools encourage, even enforce, conformity, respect for authority, obedience, to even stupid rules, but have no choice but to send Celka to school. As a family on the dole, we can't afford Steiner school fees (Steiner, at least the one here in Sheffield, is really middle class trendy liberal anyway!), and have no intention of spending all day everyday in the company of our kids, that would be dreadful for them as well as us. Besides, the socialisation which school provides is something which can't learn anywhere else, how to get on with people from all kinds of backgrounds and cultures, from the trendy, middle class professional'd kids, to the aggressive "Ninja Turtles" fans, to the Somali kids who are only just learning English.

Celka weaned herself completely from the breast at 22 months. She just kept cutting down her feeds, at 18 months she stopped feeding at bedtime, and by the time she weaned, it was only the odd suck when she hurt herself or was scared. Merle weaned himself at 14 months or so. I was at college 2 1/2 days a week, and he spent that time in the crèche or with his dad so I think that's why he gave up so early. Some kids can be difficult, and don't want to give up at all, but if you're happy with continuing, then she will cut her feeds down gradually as life around becomes more interesting, and one day you'll realise she hasn't nursed for a week, or whatever, and that will be it. I think most problems seem to arise when the mother is anxious about prolonged feeding, maybe feels embarrassed, or impatient, and the child senses that, and feeds more because they get anxious too. If you want to begin cutting back on feed, try offering a souted cup with soya milk or diluted fruit

juice, if you know she's only thirsty, or try diversion, if she's bored or feeling insecure - a game or a toy. A baby's father can be very helpful here, time spent being cuddly and happy with him away from mother's breast can help to make weaning smoother. And he doesn't smell of milk! Too much breastmilk will stop a baby wanting to become familiar with all the lovely foods on offer, because they won't be hungry at all. But if you're happy to continue, then don't worry, she should give up eventually.

In answer to your concern about calcium and iron, I shouldn't worry too much. I think Suzy is probably plenty old enough to be given soups, well pureed, such as lentil, with some fresh parsley in it for extra iron, and you could add tahini (sesame seed paste) and/or tofu for extra calcium. Tofu is very easy to digest, so it's perfect for babies, you can blend it with banana or grated apple or pear for a dessert, or cut in into cubes for finger food. I make milk shakes for my kids (much more popular than plain milk) with soya milk, tahini, banana, malt extract, ground almonds, plain soya yoghurt, maple syrup, whatever. Carob powder is high in iron I believe. Merle lives on yoghurt (soya of course), fruit, noodles, tofu, and sandwiches, as well as breakfast cereal. Porridge was always one of his favourite breakfasts as baby, I used to puree it with some raisins or other dried fruit, or fresh fruit, or add sugar free fruit spread. I would think at 11 months Suzy could be trying most of the food you eat except citrus fruit, fried food, and very spicy/salty food. And sugary things of course. Try the soup, you can make it with any vegetables for extra vitamins (except celery, which doesn't liquidize very well), and potatoes make it creamy and thick, though tahini or tofu will too. Suzy should be OK to eat wholemeal bread (lots of iron-calcium) with spreads (date puree is nice - just cook them in water 5 or 10 minutes, and blend, and keep in the fridge in a screwtop jar).

I'd like to reply to a couple of articles in Massive Love 2. First the bit about dummies (was it written by the same person who wrote the rather moralising article about TV I wonder?). I have 2 kids. When Celka (now 7) was born, I had no support (physical or emotional) from her father, and was very alone. She was a happy enough baby, but, uncannily, she always woke and screamed when I sat down to eat. I was breast-feeding her, and was concerned that if I didn't eat, I wouldn't produce milk. In the absence of anyone to take care of her while I ate, I gave her a dummy. She had one up until she was about 2 1/2, then threw it in the dustbin at my request, with no fuss. She only ever had the dummy when she was going to sleep, and she knew that was the rule. Her dummy didn't misshape her teeth, it didn't become an addiction, and it never did her any harm at all. She's a lively, intelligent and eloquent child. It certainly never made her "shut her fuckin' face". She started talking at around 1 year, and by 18 could hold a conversation. With Merle (now nearly 2) I was much luckier, as his father has been involved completely with

every aspect of care (except breastfeeding, of course). There were times when we despaired, because it was impossible to put Merle down when asleep without him waking and crying. We tried a dummy then, but he refused it. He didn't have one until he was about 18 months old. He was poorly, and tired, and had a tooth coming through. I found a dummy in a drawer and gave it to him to chew on. It worked a treat. Now he has a dummy at sleep times, and it's much easier to get him to sleep. He's not allowed it at other times.

Dummies themselves are not evil, they're only pieces of plastic and rubber, after all. If you are sensible with them, and make it clear to your baby/child that they are for sleeping only, then they don't need to be a problem. Babies don't need to cry, they cry because something is wrong, they are hungry, thirsty, tired, hot, cold, uncomfortable, in pain, or simply in need of comfort. When you've eliminated the need for everything but comfort, a dummy can be a sanity saver. Surely it's better to hold and rock a quiet baby/child with a dummy in her mouth, than to leave her screaming alone in a room because your nerves can't take anymore. Dummies (when sensibly used) are no more addictive than patting, rocking, lullabies, a parent's presence, a comfort blanket or toy, or a thumb (you can't take a thumb away during the day, and if a comfort blanket/toy gets lost or left behind, you can't nip down to the chemist and buy a replacement). In an ideal world I wouldn't have needed to give my babies dummies. In an ideal world there would always have been someone else there to help out, take the baby, cook me a meal, sit by the cot for 20 minutes, whatever. But not many people have those luxuries, and as Lara said, we've got to live with reality.

Now, the article about school. Probably much of that article is true, and I can only speak from personal experience, but I'd like to put the other side of the story. Celka goes to an inner city infants and junior school (4-11) and loves it. Personally I like my kids to go to bed reasonably early (7 to 8 pm) so that my partner and I get adult time alone, to watch TV, write letters, make love, whatever. So getting up early is never a problem. It's my experience that most kids get up early anyway, whatever time they go to bed. In Celka's school they move from area to area throughout the day (no long periods sitting still on chairs), and can even go to the toilet when they want. The children chat with friends, and even work in pairs or small groups. If she wants a day off, to see her grand parents, or go out, I simply send a note saying she had our permission to be absent (it's none of the school business why). Celka gets a reasonable, if unimaginative, vegan meal (free) every school day (saving us a lot of money!), with fresh fruit for pudding. I'm not saying her school is perfect, but they do try. It is a multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-class school, with equal opportunities policies and a non-competitive ethos. They learn the subjects stipulated by the national curriculum, but these seem to be mostly taught in an imaginative and interesting way. A lot of it is down to individual teachers, and some are great.

Deschooling is all well and good if you live in a commune, or are surrounded by other deschooled children, but not many people live like that. I live on a council estate, and have to make the most of what's available. I assume the author of the article doesn't live in England, and I don't know what schools are like in other countries, but here they vary enormously from town to town, and even from area of town to area of town. You have to pick and choose, but it is possible to find schools that do a decent job, despite the financial and academic pressures from local authorities and the government.

Finally, I'd like to say that I find the use of the word "normal" (throughout Massive Love) to describe "non-punk" (or hippy or anarchist) people a bit odd. Does this mean that those contributors consider themselves to be "abnormal"? What's wrong with "conventional" or "average" mind you. I know plenty of apparently "conventional" people who are doing the best they can for their kids, and a fair amount of apparently "unconventional" people who are busy perpetuating all the racist, sexist, homophobic and "normal, average and conventional" attitudes prevalent in western society, and glibly passing them on to their children. We should (if we consider ourselves to be socially and politically "aware" people) be wary of judging people by their appearances, or what we perceive of their lifestyles. It's not what we look like/listen to/read that is important, but what's in our heads and hearts, and how we translate that into our everyday lives. Appearances and lifestyles can be deceptive, from both sides, so we shouldn't judge all those "normals" out there before we've had a chance to get to know them. Some of them may turn out to be more "right on" than us!

AMY

I'd like to say how chuffed I was to get your zine, it was sent at a really good time because I don't get many letters, and not a lot of people can relate to a single punk parent with to kids especially when she's 22. I recently went to a parent and toddler group at my daughter's school and the room went quiet when I walked in. I sat there for 2 hours with no one speaking to me and my daughter just played on her own. She wouldn't mix with anyone so I thought never again. I thought your zine was fantastic, I keep reading it over and over, it made me realize just cos I'm young with two kids I don't have to hide and feel ashamed, I've got a right to have children and be proud of them which I am. I have two children, Kayleigh is 5 and has just started a new school, I'm not sure whether I like it because the teachers talk to children and parents in very patronising voices, you leave there thinking you're a child yourself. I also have another daughter Jade who is 2 and keeps telling me there are monsters in her potty so she'll only wear nappies. Both were born in hospitals. I was in labour 2 hrs with Kayleigh with no drugs, and 1 1/2 hrs with Jade but I had pethidine because of the pain, but I had a really bad argument with the nurse because she wanted to give me an injection and I wouldn't move over because I was having contractions.

I'd also like to say something about giving birth in a hospital. I didn't have enough courage to ask for a homebirth, and I got really bad depression being in hospital mainly because they gave me about 4 injections not saying what they were. When Jade was born she went purple and didn't make a noise, the nurse/midwife just rushed her out of the room and of course I panicked. They just said she was fine and it was obvious she wasn't (I was looking through my maternity notes at the end of the day that were on my bed which had something about an appar score which had a number next to it, I looked it up in a child care book and her number meant Jade had to be resuscitated because she wasn't breathing) that made me mad because they could have told me.

Also the hospital was full up so I was put on the ante natal ward. I got to bed at 2 o'clock and was woken at 5 with a nurse asking if I would like to feed Jade or if she would give her a bottle. I chose to feed Jade but I did think it was nice of the nurse to ask.

The main thing that annoyed me at hospital was I was woken up at 8 o'clock by a cleaner telling me I should have been up ages ago, then she said are losing your baby, I went mad thinking because Jade had been resuscitated she was dying and no one had told me, but when I said I'd just had a baby she ran around shutting all the windows saying she'll be here soon, we'll have to warm the room, except I had a window that opened every time you shut it. There was also a really bad nurse on my ward that grabbed Jade and pretty much threw her onto my breast to feed because I was "doing it too gently". I had to give up breastfeeding at 2 weeks because Jade wasn't putting on weight and I was getting really big blisters on my nipples (both those happened with Kayleigh as well) but I had a really good doctor who gave me ostersoy milk for Jade on prescription so I didn't have to pay, it's the only vegan baby milk and it's very expensive. I'm sorry about going on so much but I'm still angry at the hospital, they weren't even happy about Kayleigh visiting because she could give my baby some infection even though the baby was going home to spend the rest of her life with Kayleigh the next morning. It's things like that that turn the most beautiful thing into a nightmare. I was going to say about the good things of giving birth in a hospital but I'm afraid I can't think of any. Oh yeah, they say that age doesn't matter, when I was 16 and pregnant I was treated like a freak because I wasn't with the father, and I was 22 it was the same treatment until one day I went to the ante natal clinic with the father and I was treated more like a human being, I don't think it's age I think it's more to do with having a partner.

Also I don't know if you get Ecoover products where you live but if you do they're owned by a big firm called Group Four who have just been hired to transport prisoners from court and other prisons to new prisons. 4 prisoners escaped in their first week and there's been more since. But Group Four own laboratories or factory farming, I don't remember which, but they are a big multi national company and are not vegan, and their washing up liquid contains milk.

There's a few things I'd like to say about some articles in Massive Love.

School. Kayleigh's school are allowed to go to the toilet without asking a teacher, but we don't let Kayleigh have school milk, in her old school she was allowed to take juice, but in her new school she's only allowed tap water because it might cause jealousy with other kids. Teachers aren't allowed to smack the children, I remember when my sister was 6 she was wacked over her finger tips with the metal end of a cane for fidgeting. She's also very patronising because the teachers talk to the children and parents as if they're babies and rub off on the kids. The school also tells the kids that there is a god rather than letting them decide whether there is or not. Kayleigh's last school also had a large amount of Asians, but this school is all white and Kayleigh is turning into a racist. She's told me she doesn't like coloured people, I'm trying to bring her up anti racist and I know she's doing it to try and fit in with the other kids. So if anyone can help me with advice, etc, it will be greatly appreciated.

I'd like to say something on dummies. When Kayleigh was 1 month old I had to take her to hospital because she wasn't breathing properly. The hospital done routing feeding and Kayleigh was used to demand feeding. So if Kayleigh was crying because she was hungry, the nurse gave her a bottle of water and Kayleigh would still scream. When it was time for her feed she'd be so full of water that she wouldn't be able to have much milk, so she'd be screaming for milk an hour later and just get water. One day I went to see her and there was a massive dummy in her mouth, you could hardly see her face because she'd been a premature baby and she only weighed 5 lb at 1 month. I was so hungry with the hospital giving her a dummy because she's hungry. On the day when she came out, I overheard a doctor telling his students that they thought Kayleigh had a heart failure at first but they realised it was a heart murmur. I was mad because she'd been in there 7 days and the doctor hadn't told me a thing. She was referred to heat hospital in Leeds. They discovered she's got a hole in heart that won't close up. And they said she'd need an operation before she was 5, but whenever she goes for a check-up they always say it's getting smaller and she doesn't have to go back until October '94. I'm sure the only reason they never told me anything was because I was a teenage single mother.

The last thing I wanted to say was Kayleigh's school has a rule of 5 things the children must do. The first rule is: always do what an adult tells you first time. Which I think is ridiculous. The rest are things like walk don't run. If the kids don't comply with this they have to stand in a chalk circle for 20 minutes-45 if they're really naughty.

KATRINA

Since I'm quite fond of tribalism, and an admirer of the self-organisation as well as of the structure of Red-Indian tribes and others I basically don't oppose to the traditional form of teaching (i.e. mother & father teach their children how to live). As I see it this is ok if you go away and lead a life in nature but this option has today become almost impossible anyway. My father wasn't able to show me how to cultivate a field, where to find sandstone to whet my tools but he could say me what was '5x5'. (Actually I was fortunate because my father did show me where to find sandstone and other useful stones, how to pitch a tipi at the age of 5 but who else has learned such things here in western civilisation?) We can thus compare what the Indians taught their children to what our teachers taught us since today it's no longer important to know how to cultivate a field because there is no field for you to cultivate. Activities like doing washing-up or cooking are today seen as being inferior to knowledge. There are so much things we should know about that two persons (parents) are no longer able to offer a broad ground. It is always good to see different points of view where with homeschooling you cannot pretend you see a great range of different outlooks. When you say that at school our poor children are indoctrinated a certain form of thinking, of judging etc. - only a twit would say

units is not the case with homeschooling cos there you rely on one or two persons. We must leave to our children the possibility of finding their own way as you chose it, too. We cannot command them to take the same path as we did! Your child is always left with the option of saying goodbye to 'normal life', to this society where the opposite is hardly possible.

In my view school has got another very important function today - the one of preparing children for the competition in life which is a strong trait of today's society. If you are homeschooling your child it won't learn how to handle this competition, how to be strong among others (!), how to defend it's own opinion (!) and so on. Whether we consider this competition to be good or not - it IS there!

I personally am glad I have been being educated at school (while I still don't agree with a load of aspects there). What about if your child will feel the same? This is the main aspects of why I'm glad homeschooling is not allowed in this country. By the way, there were loads of moments when I wanted to quit school and now I'm lucky I was forced to continue (this proves that there are some grandfather's sayings that can be true).

We are living in a cold world and must get strong. How can we get strong if we don't feel and see it.

JULI Ellison, 222 Jett Roberts Road, Jefferson, GA 30549, USA.

KAREN Williams, La Vallee Blosse, 22250 Sevignac, France.

MICHAEL Wood, address unknown at the moment.

SARAH Terry, 28 Lilly Street, Bradford, BD8, England.

AMY & GRAEME Rowan, 17 Hobart Street, Sharrow, Sheffield, S11 8DB, England.

JEN Tait, 9 Baggrave End, Barsby, Leicester, LE7 4RB, England.

GRAHAM Burnett, 126A North Road, Westcliff-On-Sea, Essex, SS0 7AG, England.

CHRIS, Manley Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8WD, England.

KATRINA Rowan, 5 Cartref House, Chelwood Drive, Allerton, Bradford, BD15 7YF, England.

PATTY Hall, Po box 711, Jacksonville, OR 97530, USA.

CONTRIBUTORS

Keegan Lysander Wood

How REAL punx enjoy summer ahah!



Two books I've not read so far cos they're a bit too expensive to order without being sure whether they're good or not, but as their descriptions sound interesting I write them down here.

VACCINATIONS: THE REST OF THE STORY

A selection of articles, letters, and resources Contributors include physicians, public health workers, and parents. The most comprehensive collection ever published challenging the conventional viewpoint on vaccinations.

SCHOOLING AT HOME

Presents ways and philosophies of learning, legal issues, methods of teaching at home, and personal accounts of part-time and full-time homeschooling.

Each book costs \$14.95 ppd, add \$1 per item for international postage to Mothering, PO Box 1690, Santa Fe, NM 87504, USA.

Sally, Swiss Student

At the time of writing we have three children, Chloe, aged 7, Ben, aged 2, and Jacky who was born 2 weeks ago. My partner Debby and I have been vegan since 1983 and 1984 respectively, and our children have never knowingly consumed any product derived from animals. Needless to say, they are all very healthy, happy, confident and beautiful. There are any number of books full of bullshit about the "correct" way to bring up children, many of these are foisted upon the nervous and apprehensive mother during pregnancy, who quite naturally is concerned about the fragile being she is about to bring into this world, and therefore highly vulnerable to the dubious "advice" they offer. This ranges from blatant lies, such as "the strict vegetarian or vegan diet is not suitable for very young infants", to advocating treatment that is potentially psychologically damaging to the young mind, for example, that the "attention seeking" cries of babies should be ignored when he is "put in his cot at night". A baby has no other means of communicating his distress than his cries of hunger, fear, discomfort or pure need for affection. When his cries are ignored, what can he learn but despair? When his attempts at communication meet with no response, what can he experience but hopelessness? To me this is common sense, but then, I'm not a "qualified expert". These books usually accompany "Bounty Bags" full of unnecessary, overpackaged, and earth polluting crap that various corporations are anxious to foist upon new mothers; creams, lotions, formulas, disposable nappies, processed foods, wipes, detergents, you name it, the advertisers would have mum believe that the only way baby can truly be happy, healthy and contented is by consuming their products. Like 90% of the junk produced by capitalism, these items, and the books that come with, have very little to do with needs, and basically belong in the dustbin. The childcare and parenting sections of libraries are also full of books, again written by "experts", that nine out of ten times also belong in the dustbin of history. They are full of the ideas of perverts intent upon contorting young minds to conform to their theoretical models by imposing "routines", "disciplines" and other forms of social conditioning. A handful of books however are very useful and revelant. I'll try to list a few at the end of this article. But on the whole, pregnancy, birth and the rearing of children isn't about intellectualisations and theories, rather it's about feelings, experiences and intuitions; about following the ways of nature. What seems right usually is.



Debby was not able to breastfeed Chloe, but was able to obtain infant formula suitable for the vegan diet. Ben was breastfed until about 17 months of age, when he himself decided it was time to stop, and there have been no problems so far with breastfeeding Jacky. Food other than milk can be introduced at about 6 months, but should be bland in flavour and well cooked and mashed, for example, parsnips, carrots, peas, etc. Other foods, such as well cooked grains, potatoes, fruit, beans, and so on can be slowly introduced over the next few months, and by the time baby is about a year of age he'll be eating the same meals as the rest of the family, albeit in much smaller, well mashed portions. We've never supplemented our children's meals with added vitamins, minerals and so forth, nor have we bothered to research into vegan nutritional requirements or ways of providing a "balanced" vegan diet for our children. However, the food we provide for them obviously more than adequately meets their needs. As a family we eat a varied diet which incorporates plenty of fresh veg (vegan-organically home-grown as much as possible), fruit, grains, beans, nuts and so on cooked or prepared in a limitless variety of ways. Although it is possible that some vegan children may need to pay attention to the amounts of calcium, iron and vitamin B12 they are receiving, I believe that on the whole the risks are no greater than for any other child, particularly those that consume "junk food", and have no doubt been grossly exaggerated by the vested interests of the meat, dairy and other animal-abuse industries. If you are in doubt about providing a vegan diet for your child, however, advice is available from the vegan and vegetarian societies, or from the Movement For Compassionate Living (for addresses see end). Note that strongly flavoured foods (eg, very spicy or herby foods) should be avoided for young children. Also nuts should be crushed up before being given to children under three, to avoid the risk of choking.

It is a fact of life that children are prone to like sweet things, possibly this is due to the comfort and warmth associated with sweetness on a primal level, human breast milk is very sweet. However, it is wise to avoid sugar (sucrose) in a child's diet, they can develop a craving, and sugar is a well known contributing factor to western style disease and tooth decay, whilst providing little or no nutritional

value. We were very strict about excluding sugar from Chloe's diet during her first couple of years, but for some reason tended to become more lax later on. Interestingly enough she hasn't got a great deal of enthusiasm for sweets now, she can take them or leave them. Even sweets, etc., that get bought for her tend to sit in the cupboard or fridge for weeks on end before eventually getting thrown away. On the other hand we have been far less strict with Ben, and sure enough, he's developed a real taste for chocolate, biscuits, cakes, sweets and so on, and like so many other kids will throw a tantrum if he's not given them. I think with Jacky we'll go back to ensuring that sugar is well excluded from his diet!



For children, socialising with others of their own age is very important. They learn to communicate, to negotiate, develop their social skills, and, most importantly, they really enjoy themselves! I feel that parents should create as many opportunities as possible for their children to spend time with other children. I think it's a big mistake to try to ensure that our children only mix with children that are in some way being brought up with "alternative" values. All of us, I'm sure, would not allow racist, sexist, homophobic ass-holes into our homes. But most of us are friends with, and spend a lot of time with, people who do not share our ideas or agree with our political views. This is healthy, it gives us all a chance to debate, learn from and teach each other, discuss, or just plain get on with doing the normal human things like having a laugh, a joke, a drink or a chat about nothing in particular. All of us grow from varied human contact, this is no less so for children.

At about the age of 3, children can attend nursery school, or kindergarden. Although what I have said about the value of children socialising widely stands, I do feel that it pays to be cautious about the nursery school you choose. Not all are by any means suitable. The first that we took Chloe to was most unsuitable, it seemed to be run more along the lines of some sort of army or prison camp, with an obsession for "discipline" and "order" being imposed by the no-doubt screwed-up supervisors. We never noticed that Chloe was obviously being fed messages about christianity, when we picked her up she would be singing hymns, or asking us questions about Jesus and god. We finally decided to remove her from that nursery school when I went to collect her one day, and found all the three and four year old children playing with toy tanks, guns and soldiers! Afterwards I sent a letter to the school stating my reasons for removing her. We received a reply apologising, and stating that they had immediately taken action to get rid of all the war toys! However, they could only regret that I didn't share their views on the promotion of christianity. We were all much happier with the last nursery school we chose, here the atmosphere was much brighter, friendlier and non-sectarian, Chloe loved it, and parents were positively encouraged to get involved. Debby even ended up working there for a few mornings each week, and really enjoyed it!



Chloe started "proper" school in January 1991. The Gulf war was in a full swing at the time, and I dearly remember the looks I got from some of the other parents for wearing my "NO BLOOD FOR OIL" and broken rifle badges when I would go to collect her. We did think about alternatives to the state school system. Free schools, such as Summerhill, whilst very excellent in concept, are unfortunately an option only for people who are far better off financially than we are ever likely to be! We read up on home education, I also attended some meetings and workshops run by Education Otherwise, who promote learning at home in this country. Again, many of the ideas they spoke of seemed fire, but the answers I received to some of my questions failed to convince me. Mainly this concerned the issue of socialising with other children. I was told that my daughter would not be starved of the company of other children, because E.O. organises camps and get-togethers "several times a year" where home educated children can meet up! Hardly a substitute for day-to-day interaction and the informal communities that children create in their playgrounds!

Despite our reservations, Chloe loves it at skool, she's made a lot of friends, and has become a really confident and outgoing individual. There's a lot of creative energy in our house, and Chloe is surrounded by music, art and literature, so it's not really surprising that drawing and writing are skills that she is fast developing, but she is also very good at maths. This is a mystery as both Debby and I are hopeless and useless in this area!! We did worry that Chloe might feel a bit of a social outcast because of her vegan diet, but she's had no problem at all. If she goes to any children's parties, etc, she usually takes her own vegan sausages, biscuits and so on. Interestingly enough, far from excluding her, the other children always want to eat her stuff, evidently it tastes better than "food" made from the corpses of our animal sisters and brothers.



There was a book included with the LP "Christ The Album" that anarchist band CRASS released in 1982. One of the essays in this book was entitled "Yes, it's a shame about Salvador, but what have those kids done with my fucking car keys?". I think this article lays out fairly clearly what skool is really about. It's about power and authority, and the stifling of individuality and spirit. It's about state control and ensuring the state stays in control. But Pete Wright's essay is also all about the spaces children can create, or exploit, to move in. I think it's very important that parents who care about their children make themselves aware of what skool is about, and provide the necessary back-up to ensure their kids' survival and ability to cope. Counter the bullshit propaganda with other ideas and opinions. Support your children when they find themselves in conflict with the skool authorities. Most importantly, help your kids develop the skills, and the confidence to effectively question, and learn, on their own terms. Skools shouldn't be about getting qualifications and being conditioned to slot neatly into society's predetermined roles so that the wheels of capitalism can continue to smoothly grind. Instead skools should be about teaching our children to become Earth Citizens. How to look after their own bodies. How to respect animal life. How to save their dying world. How to build and re-invent their communities. How to be nice to each other. At the moment in this country, unfortunately, the swing is going even further the other way, with our particularly nasty, vicious and mean spirited right wing tory government intent on imposing a "national curriculum" replacing inquiry, intuition and exploration with a return to "note learning" and indoctrination. At least, that's the idea. But teachers ARE resisting. A massive boycott by the British teaching unions of government imposed "intelligence tests" and the imposition of inter-skool "league tables" recently forced a major state climb down. Such actions should be greeted with solidarity and support. Let's work on making our kids' teachers their allies instead of their oppressors.

I've tried above simply to share a few experiences and thoughts of my own on the subject of having children, as I've said a couple of times, I'm no expert and I don't claim to have all the answers. I don't know if we're a particularly "alternative" family, I'm not even sure what that means. We've just bringing up our children in the ways that seem OK to us. Having children isn't about being politically correct, and following a set of "right-on" rules can be just as authoritarian as living in the most moralistic, right wing, reactionary, patriarchal household. Hopefully the kids of "punk parents" will grow up to be happy, healthy, emotionally balanced, caring, compassionate, inquiring and all-round sussed human beings, if they end up with a set of alternative hang-ups, prejudices and guilt-trips, then what's been achieved?

Two final thoughts I'd like to include: 1-Nobody is perfect. Everybody makes mistakes. This includes me.

2-There are a million and one books and articles on bringing up children. None of them are 100% correct. All need to be questioned and analysed. That includes this one.

Graham Burnett, July 1993



THE VEGAN SOCIETY, 7 Battle Road, St Leonards-On-Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7aa, England.

THE VEGETARIAN SOCIETY, Parkdale, Dunham Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 4QG, England.

THE MOVEMENT FOR COMPASSIONATE LIVING, 47 Highlands Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8NQ, England.

A few non-bullshit books for parents & children:

Jean Liedloff-The Continuum Concept

Based on her experiences with the Yecana tribe in the South America rainforests, every parent to be should read this book which demonstrates how the true needs of babies and children are met in the most natural ways.

Green Babies-Penelope Starway(Century publishing)

Green Parenting-Juliet Solomon(Optima books)

2 books for parents concerned about ecological issues and providing a "green" environment and upbringing for their children. These 2 also include useful "further reading" lists.

For children:

Young children like bright, colourful books, particularly "board" books which are harder to damage, which feature clear illustrations of familiar objects, eg, food, toys, etc. Watch out for sexist or other stereotyping images though.

Usborne(?) books are useful for children of 7+, full of useful information and clear illustrations. Particularly good is "Ecology-A Practical Introduction with Projects and Activities".

If you can get hold of it "The Little Red School Book" is well worth a read for older children at skool. It originally appeared in the UK in the early seventies to massive outcry, and re-surfaced for a while in the mid eighties, but I've not seen it around for a while. A reprint/update is due I think!



COMMUNICATE! will be a pamphlet collecting the thoughts, writings, drawings, etc, etc, of people who are involved with children, such as parents, teachers, etc, who are going "against the grain", travellers, punks, vegans, vegetarians, free-skoolers, home educators, pacifists, ecologists, class war-ists ... labels suck but you get the picture! It'd be nice if this could be the pilot for a magazine or network, but that will depend on response. Write for more info ... Land and Liberty, 126 A North Road, Westcliff-On-Sea, Essex, SSO 7AG, England.

